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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1908.

## The Far East's Open Door.

The arrival of the optimistic Baron Takahira as Ambassador of Japan to the United States with his announcement as to the "cardinal objects" of his mission, seems to make all the war talk of a few weeks ago utterly foolish and far-fetched. At the same time it is learned that the Japanese answer on the immigration question is on its way to this country through the hands of Ambassador O'Brien.

Much of the ally war talk was caused by the question of Japanese immigration, and undoubtedly the government of the Mikado was surprised to find that when it came to a question of competition in labor the Japanese were classed with the Chinese; but this cloud seems to have passed, and the one thing that remains for permanent settlement, a matter in which the good faith of the United States is pledged, is the question as to the integrity of China. There was a time not so long ago when the disruption of China seemed threatened from many causes. Russia, through Manchuria, seemed inclined for extensive territorial aggrandizement; Germany, with a foothold at Kia-chow, looked longingly at the rich Shantung province; France was willing to extend her holdings, and Great Britain was not behind any of them in seeking advantage. But the Russo-Japanese war changed all that, and to-day the one power that seeks an outlet for her emigration, which, being on the ground, seems to claim a sort of divine right to act as schoolmaster and exploiter to China, is Japan. When the Boxer troubles were settled eight years ago, it was our Secretary Hay who secured an agreement with the powers "to safeguard for the world's peoples equal and impartial trade with all parts of the Chinese empire." This was the "open-door policy," and it has been observed strictly by all nations but one—Japan!

The Russo-Japanese war left Japan master of a stretch of territory in Manchuria which has since been exploited for the exclusive benefit of Japan and Japanese merchants. So far from the door being open, it has been closed by tariffs and customs regulations which applied to all foreign goods, and not to Japanese merchandise, and this sort of commercial unfairness has been indulged in so persistently to call forth protests from Germany and Great Britain, whose commercial interests in China are larger than those of the United States. China is growing rapidly, and much of its growth is due to the work of American missionaries, American schools, American commercial enterprises. The time has arrived when she not only does not look with hostility on foreigners, she invites their construction, and she has wisely determined, as far as possible, to take all foreign concessions into her own hands and do her own building and developing. To such a movement on the part of China the United States might well look favorably and encouragingly. By our very position geographically, we should be able to furnish in fair competition most of the railroad supplies that China will use within the next hundred years; and if China buys in an open market, we have our chance. If the task is to be left to the hands of German, British, or Japanese capitalists, it is hardly likely that the door will be opened wide enough to allow us, as traders, to enter in. We have got to recognize that the "open door" in China and Manchuria is a phrase full of meaning—that it has just been behind it, and that we, as a nation deeply interested, have a right to insist on the present treaties being observed.

Doubtless it hurt Ambassador Takahira considerably to be obliged to blue-pencil Capt. Hobson's war scare.

## Gov. Hughes on Corporations.

Gov. Hughes took occasion, in his Chicago address, the first he has delivered in the West, to elaborate somewhat his views on the relations of government to industrial corporations. With respect to public service corporations, including the railroads, his ideas are well understood through the comprehensive legislation enacted in New York at his instance. It is evident that he would not approve placing industrial corporations under supervision of administrative boards such as the Interstate Commerce Commission or the public service commission of New York. The abuses in the conduct of such corporations he would meet by prohibitive legislation directed at specific practices sought to be enjoined. Some of these abuses he thus enumerates:

"In a free country it is intolerable that one should be denied equal access to markets by discriminating rates or allowances, or that he should be the victim of a conspiracy to deprive him of his property, or that he should be excluded by the use of large aggregations of capital in unfair competition. Nor should a premium be placed upon such practices or an incentive be given to extortion by granting the innocent party of securities which do not fairly represent value and upon which returns cannot be earned by fair means.

The way to get rid of these abuses, says the governor, is to attack them directly, and he believes "the most efficacious means is definition and prescription and adequate punishment of offenders." He would have the Sherman law amended to permit reasonable associations and agreements, and "point with more definite aim at the evils which afflict interstate commerce." Gov. Hughes thinks the evils in question "will not be eradicated by mere changes in forms of organization," in an opinion which will be shared by all impartial observers of trust prosecutions, especially those which seek to dissolve large corporations into smaller ones.

The policy here briefly outlined would undoubtedly put a stop to the worst of the abuses in the conduct of such corporations. It is not one of those who think that I am not one of those who believe he could carry Georgia against Bryan or any other Democratic nominee."

Mr. Reynolds is the son-in-law of Congressman George Washington Taylor, of the First Alabama district.

Denmark's War on Rats. The national government is to spend \$10,000 a year and borough councils \$5 per 100 persons per year to exterminate the pests. Each rat is said to cost a farthing a day in the material it destroys. In eighteen weeks the total rats destroyed amounted to 165,000.

trust practices, just as the anti-rebate law has but ended discriminations in railway rates. With adequate laws regulating the formation of corporations and the flotation of their securities, the use of the police power to prevent corporate wrongdoing would go a long way toward solving the corporation problem; and it would do it, too, as Gov. Hughes observes, without involving business in uncertainty or handicapping legitimate enterprise.

Mr. August Belmont's New York residence has been found to contain a gas meter given to running 153 per cent too fast. We shudder to think of the probable speed maintained by the gas meters in the homes of the average and everyday New Yorker.

## Is Dying Delightful?

Dr. Albert Heim, a distinguished German scientist, believes that death may be, in fact, generally, a delightful sensation. The doctor does not reach this conclusion along theoretical lines exclusively. On the contrary, he recently had a very narrow escape—if, under the logic he upholds, it may be termed an "escape"—from death in the Alps, accidentally falling from a great height, and living to tell of it only because of a snow-bank that broke the force of his fall at its conclusion and saved his life.

"Though only a few seconds elapsed from the moment the good doctor lost his footing until he realized that he was not to die, he appears to have enjoyed a multitude of very vivid thoughts during those few seconds, being perfectly sure all the time that his fate was sealed."

In relating his experience, Dr. Heim said, in part:

"I was conscious only so long as I was falling of the perception of beautiful images. At the moment of contact with earth they disappeared."

"I recollected that in five days more I was to deliver an inaugural discourse, and thoughts of the great day came into my mind, and dear to me. Anon, lying, as it were, on the limit of a far distant horizon, appeared distinct and divers images and episodes of my past life. The whole mental picture stood clear out and I was able to discern its details."

"All that I missed lovely and of good report. There were no misgivings, no anxieties, no sorrow, pain, or terror."

"There were no sensations of contest or strife. All was merged in feelings of genial good will and kindly feeling. Such feelings predominated over all and formed what was a unique and lovely picture."

"Gradually a heaven of glorious blue, flecked with crimson clouds of gorgeous lightness, surrounded me. In the distance, far below, and far away from below, but painlessly and pleasantly, while a vast and moving snowfield seemed to accompany me. Anon the perception of objects, subjective thoughts, a medley of various feelings, seemed to glide in concentric masses around as a common center."

"I clearly saw the possibility of my fate. I said to myself: 'The rocky wall from which I am now being hurled presents my seeing what is at its base.'"

Is death like that? Who knows? The so-called King of Terrors may be the Prince of Peace. Who shall say otherwise? Such was a man—not a "crank," but an eminent scientist—perfectly sure he was being hurled to his doom: the end of his life was at hand. He relates his experience as a pleasurable one entirely. May we not all suppose that the last moment—the ultimate breath—is pregnant with an abiding and sweet content? Wouldn't it be a beautiful thing to thus believe?

If both the old parties select a Southern man for a Vice Presidential candidate, isn't it going to be a little embarrassing for Dixie?

## Educators and China.

In a recent message to Congress, President Roosevelt urged that whatever steps are proper be taken to secure for America large numbers of Chinese students. The "Western learning" is China's greatest present need, the most neighborly service we can render her is to help meet this need.

A formal invitation from America to China would bring ten thousand students to these shores, eager to sit at the feet of American teachers. The body best qualified to extend that invitation is the National Educational Association, now in session in this city. No more important question can come before the convention than this history.

In all history there has never been a situation parallel to the present in this particular. Here is China, powerful beyond all reckoning, eager to place its young men, who in a few years will be the leaders of the empire, under the tutelage of this country. This means nothing less than the peaceful domination of China by America, with all that this implies of trade advantage, moral influence, and political prestige. The opportunity is one that should stir to action every institution of higher learning in the land. Assuredly, so alert a body of patriotic citizens as the members of the National Educational Association will not ignore it.

Senator Hale estimates the cost of our new navy at \$120,000,000. And to think that it is already almost obsolete!

"One trouble with some people is that a very small effort enables them to keep their self-respect," says the Chicago Record-Herald. Has our contemporary not mixed itself up a little in this matter? It should require no violent effort for the right kind of man to retain his self-respect.

"Roosevelt Checks a Plot," says an editorial headline five columns wide in the Philadelphia North American. Isn't that getting rather commonplace?

"Still, all the criminals are not rich men these days," observes the Atlanta Georgian. And, more important still, perhaps, all the rich men are not criminals.

Even when Congress shall have restored the motto to the \$20 gold piece, how many of us can swear from our own knowledge that it ever was taken off?

Journal. Oh, well; what's the use? Doesn't everybody understand by this time that the "square deal" has its limitations?

It seems the Jap vessel that was apparently following our fleet is a very innocent, unarmed affair; in fact, a merchantman. Nevertheless, by jingo, what was it doing there?

"Taft at Concord," runs a headline. Where has Taft been that there was no Concord? asks the Terre Haute Tribune. Well, it wasn't so thick in Ohio that you had to cut through it with a meat ax.

A South Carolina bank was robbed from the outside. But not by some one on the inside, let us hope.

"A Berlin correspondent says that when the German Emperor goes to a musical comedy, he composes three jokes and hands them to the leading comedian, who says the Birmingham News. No doubt his jests were cut up about it, even with the leading comedian for some of the jokes he hands the audience.

A New York bank cashier declined to honor a check for \$100,000. We do not know what the cashier's excuse was, but we are informed what sort of person presented it.

An Indian chief is reported to have spent \$2,000 for comic valentines this year. Looks as if poor Lo will never learn anything worth while about the gold brick business.

A Wisconsin man recently smoked for the first time, though he is ninety-six years of age. Surely a man who can go that long without smoking before he passes away ought to be able to avoid it after.

"Dying is a most delicious sensation," says a physician. Unfortunately for the truth of this statement, the physician isn't dead, never has been, and can't swear to it.

"Of course, the dignitaries of Callao went out to meet Admiral Evans in a Peruvian bark," says the Chicago Post. All right; but what was the admiral doing in a Peruvian bark?

The latest brainstorm is to the effect that the President has sold the Philippines to the German Emperor, and has sent that fleet to the Pacific in order to see that Japan doesn't cut up about it. What we need to do now is to borrow England's fleet to see that Germany doesn't cut up about it.

"A Waterloo bark had a vision of Roosevelt and Bryan running on the same ticket," says the Des Moines Capital. More likely a boozaloo man.

Home is where the heart is, and the delegate is where the pie is.

"I have no illusions about Mr. Roosevelt," says Mr. Harriman. No, indeed; merely a large collection of disillusionments.

When an irresistible Hughes boom collides with an immovable "Bat" Master, what is the answer?

## MODERN CHRISTIANITY.

New Sense of Religion Taking Possession of Men.

From the Boston Transcript.

The Christian religion, which in essence is the revelation of divine love to humanity, stands as the crown and climax of man's religious development. It carries within it healing and reconciling forces. It is a principle of growth, and shows its power of adaptation by absorbing all that is germane to its spirit out of its environment. Hence Christianity has a social as well as a personal message. It seeks to mold all institutions that men may be enabled to realize their nature, to gain their rightful heritage. All slaveries, moral and physical, are abolished. The enthusiasm of humanity creates missionary and reformer and philanthropist. Hence, too, the optimists that are so abundantly evident in modern life, and that amaze Oriental visitors to Christian lands. To-day the criminal is being studied, that he may be reformed; the problem of poverty is being attacked that it may be lightened; the insane, the sick, the would-be suicide appeal as they have never appealed to sympathy and the power to help. We are conscious that enormous though our evils are, we have the power to overcome them. Whence this incurable hopefulness? Only from the new sense of religion and its value that is taking possession of the general mind, and that is permeating all the higher thought of our time.

## Asset Currency.

From the Springfield Bulletin.

Our asset currency school is to this extent beginning to come over to the currency principle, in the recognition that a central bank is desirable. A greater centralization of the banking power of the United States seems to be to be probably an indispensable condition of safety in the issue of bank notes based upon business assets, and in the absence of a central bank, we should go very slowly in the matter of adopting an asset currency. As an experiment involving no great risk a closely restrictive policy of taxed emergency issues—not based on bonds—might well be tried, but the adoption of a general asset currency should await the establishment of a central bank, which will have to come sooner or later.

## Legal Holidays on Saturday.

From the Wall Street Journal.

An unusual number of legal holidays fall this year on Saturday, which day is legally a half holiday. They are February 22, Washington's Birthday; May 30, Decoration or Memorial Day, and July 4, Memorial Day and July 4 always fall on the same day of the week but it is only possible in leap year for Washington's Birthday to occur on the same day of the week as the Fourth of July. No legal holidays have fallen on Saturday previous to this year since 1903, when Decoration Day and Fourth of July fell on Saturday.

## THE PEACEABLE RACE.

From the Boston Transcript.

"Who says that the Irish are fighters by birth?" Says little Dan Cronin.

"Faix, there's not a more peaceable race on the earth."

"If ye lare 'em alone."

"Tim O'Toole? Well, I grant ye now, there is a lad."

"That's best, but the curse o' pugacity bad."

"But he's just 'th' Irishman, 'th' proverbial 'lad' who'd go to a lad like O'Toole? Sure, he's a big mountain o' muscle and bone, built up to the left o' his own head."

"To be fair, he's a big mountain o' muscle and bone, built up to the left o' his own head."

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## A LITTLE NONSENSE.

QUERY.

Of staircase verse  
We see pile,  
Does it uplift  
style?

Does it lead up  
To great renown?  
Or does it drag  
A fellow  
down?

In New York.

"Madam, I'm hungry."

"Well! Come right into the Hotel Goulash. I can't eat in a fashionable place unless accompanied by a man."

## The Cautious Congressman.

"So you are in favor of tariff revision?"

"Yes. Since the people seem to desire it. I think we might after a comma here and there without hurting anything."

## A La Kipling.

He prates to-day of pike and shard;  
Writes warlike stuff.  
I fear that the gentle bard  
Is getting rough.

## Get Your Dictionary.

"I'm very fond of Welsh elatedoids. Aren't you?"

"I don't know. Are they anything like rabbits?"

## Live and Learn.

"When are they to be married?"

"She doesn't know. She is worried because she is not quite sure of herself."

"That's a new one on me. I thought a girl worried when she wasn't quite sure of the man."

## The Requirements.

"An actor needs imagination, scope, breadth, temperament—"

"And a full-lined overcoat."

## Like the Spelling.

"Are you in favor of ball-gown reform?"

"Not if it means cutting 'em down any."

## February 24 in History.

Henry VIII had his nose frozen, 1556.

Peter the Great lost 57 kopecks at poker, 1725.

Violinist Nere made his debut, 66.

Battle of Popo was fought, 191.

Lars Porson, of Chastium spilled from his ivory car, 99 B. C.

Paris sacked by suffragettes, 1643.

## THIRD-PARTY STRENGTH.

Plenty of Opportunity This Year for Disgruntled Voters.

From the New York Evening Post.

There will be no occasion for surprise next November at developments of voting strength outside of the Democratic and Republican lines. Next to the unexampled plurality of the winning candidate, this growth of the smaller groups was the notable feature of the last Presidential election. Every party gained in that election except the luckless Democrats. Roosevelt's personality was said to overshadow everything. Yet the prohibition party gained 49,000 recruits, the Populists 23,000, the Socialists 210,000, and the Socialist-Labor 300 or so in an election which brought out a smaller vote than that of 1906. The growth of minor parties accounts for a larger portion of the Democratic losses than the augmented Republican vote. They received but little over 1 per cent of the total vote in 1906, and more than 5 per cent four years later. What will the proportion be this year?

One must ignore the most patent facts of American politics to see here the evidence of a collapse of the old parties and the development of anything like the political groups of European countries. But the great party plainly have to reckon this year with the fact that the doubtful voter has more satisfactory refuge in this year than usual. Disgruntled members of the old parties have often, for purely personal reasons, voted "third tickets" to express their protest. This year, when there are so many positive reasons for doing the same, the chance is just so much greater. Politicians have long known the art of judiciously aiding the minor parties in places where they have a chance of drawing votes from the enemy. At present, such tactics will be a little like playing with fire.

## Hughes a Modern Washington.

Edwin D. Mead, in Boston Globe.

What kind of a President would George Washington make to-day? A President who, with the same high dignity, inflexible justice, and commanding power as in 1789 would speak the strong, simple words, and exercise the potent influence day by day which would compel in every class respect for law and respect for men, which would stop strife, shame greed and graft, inspire the loftiest American ambitions, and keep the republic which he founded true to its end to the world. He would set the nation in his groove, the contagious example of "plain devotedness to duty." Is America poor in men of this primal Washington quality to-day? Thank God she is rich. The name of one of them is Charles E. Hughes.

## A Home Census.

From the Philadelphia Bulletin.

Chairman Tawney, who is the leading economist at the National Capital, declares that the next census should count the people of the mainland of the United States, leaving the brown, yellow, and part-colored inhabitants of our island possessions without the costly blessing of Federal enumeration. Probably most plain Americans will think he is right.

## When the Octopus Guffaws.

From the Springfield Union.

Commenting on Senator "Jeff" Davis' prolonged absence from Washington, the Washington Herald remarks that the Senator "evidently entertains a sublime faith in the octopus' predilection for standing hitched." This should bring from the octopus a horse laugh.

## How Not to Do It.

From the Boston Transcript.

Oh! is contemplating the erection of a new Statehouse. Her near neighbor, Pennsylvania, has given her a brilliant example of what to avoid.

## Usual Stipulation Missing.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

Strangely enough, the Carnegie gift to a bride did not depend upon any stipulation that the groom furnish as large an amount.

## Brave in Adversity.

From the New York Evening Sun.

Whether or not Gen. Stoessel showed courage at Port Arthur, he has certainly behaved like a brave man at his trial.

## Neglected Formality.

From the Baltimore Sun.

The railroad companies have a "nerve" to go and reduce wages without the consent of President Roosevelt.

From the Dayton Herald.

No matter whether living comes from indigestion or indigestion from living, it's hard matter to cure either.

The Texas Way.

From the Charleston News and Courier.

The nine-foot-sheet bill in Oklahoma originated in Texas, where only one sheet to the bed is used.

## CAPITOL GOSSIP.

Senator Norris Brown is one of the busy

B's from Nebraska. Like his colleague, Senator Burkett, he is a native of Iowa, receiving his education in that State.

He graduated from the Iowa State University in 1883 with the degree of A. B., and two years later received the degree of M. A. He practiced law in Jackson, Iowa, for five years, but, thinking there were greater opportunities farther West, he removed to Kearney, Neb., in 1888, and put out his shingle in that town.

He served as county attorney of Buffalo County for four years, and from 1900 to 1904 was deputy attorney general. Later he was made attorney general, occupying that office for two years.

Mr. Brown was elected to the United States Senate in 1907. He devotes a great deal of his time to his Senatorial duties, and is usually to be found in his accustomed place, in the Cherokee Strip, near Senator Burkett.

Senator Brown is chairman of the Select Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice, and is a member of the committee on Civil Service and Retrenchment, Corporations Organized in the District of Columbia, Indian Affairs, Mississippi River and its Tributaries, and Revolutionary Claims.

Representative Hardwick, of Georgia, is a modest man. At the same time the modesty of Mr. Hardwick does not permit him to forget his rights and conceal himself behind a cloud of self-abasement.

During the debate on the question of introducing Jim Crow street cars into the District of Columbia, Mr. Hardwick was, for a long time, merely an interested spectator. Finally, after compliments had been passed about the chamber quite promiscuously, Mr. Hardwick arose, and, after being recognized, made quite a speech.

He attacked the position of the Republican members of the question, and said that that party has continued to violate in spirit the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution, in spite of wild protests that it would uphold those amendments.

When Mr. Hardwick finished—he is one of the youngest members of the House—a Republican arose and said:

"I believe that the gentleman from Georgia had in the platform upon which he was elected to Congress that, if he were elected, he would repeal the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments."

When the laughter died down, Mr. Hardwick managed to say that he hadn't promised to repeal those amendments, all alone, but that he nevertheless would be glad to vote for such repeal.

Representative Campbell, of Kansas, in addition to being a member of the House Committee on the District of Columbia, is also a great worker on other House affairs. He also knows his Bible.

In fact, Mr. Campbell works so hard sometimes that he is compelled to go up to the House office building on the first day of the week, to continue his studies which began on one of the preceding six.

During the consideration of the resolution to determine the number of policemen to be employed in guarding the office building, Mr. Campbell was called upon to tell some of his experiences with a crowd of children in the building.

"I will have to confess," he said, "that on last Sunday I was forced to break out of the crowd and go to the House office building to do some work on the Lord's day."

"What commandment was it?" inquired some Democrat.

Mr. Campbell pondered a bit, grew just a trifle red, and then he said:

"Remember the Sabbath day."

## The Complementary Brain Storm.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Two wrongs make a right. The other day a young employee in the local office of a big manufacturing concern called up the company's factory at Pittsburg to place a hurry order that had to be filled that day or never.

He had a brain storm, and gave the name of the wrong customer. Several hours later he remembered giving the wrong name, and realized that the goods were then traveling in the wrong direction, and that it was probably too late to get a similar shipment to the right customer in time. He got into communication with Pittsburg again, and learned that the girl at the other end who took his order had also suffered a brain storm, and put down a different name than the one he had told her. It just happened that the name she wrote down was the right one.